

# Commons Report for Parish Council Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## **1. Volunteer Group Tasks**

Volunteer tasks undertaken by Norfolk Conservation Corps (NCC) and Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS) unless otherwise stated.

**Date**            **Location**            **Volunteer Group**    **Task Completed**

***Tasks Completed (since last report)***

*None undertaken due to pandemic*

***Tasks Planned (exact dates and tasks to be confirmed)***

19/07/20    tbc                            NEWS                            tbc

## **2. Management Plans**

No further action. Consultation out on proposed new ELMS scheme.

Footpath tree safety audit instructed but not yet completed (cost of £400). Contractor may be required where any diseased/damaged trees are identified that pose a risk to public safety.

## **3. HLS Agreements**

HLS agreement extensions in place until 31/05/2021. 2020 claim forms for Uppgate and Alderford submitted to the RPA and confirmations of receipt obtained.

## **4. Uppgate Common**

Hooves on ponies getting long and reported to NWT. Two unsuccessful attempts made to corral the ponies for inspection made in late June. Finally corralled allowing the vet and farrier to inspect/treat the ponies on 2nd July. Ponies not being moved this year due to the pandemic.

Tasks limited during the nesting season, although all were cancelled anyway due to the pandemic. NEWS are re-commencing a limited programme with limited numbers and new methods based on a revised risk assessment (Draft received and approved). NEWS booked in for an initial task on 19<sup>th</sup> July (exact task and location to be confirmed). Flexibility will be needed as limited numbers only using their own tools etc. NCC are discussing re-commencement, but no available dates provided as yet.

Future summer tasks likely to include non-native species eradication (Himalayan Balsam) and bracken control, possible pond maintenance plus some maintenance of infrastructure where required. Grassland will need cutting and raking up in August. The help of Parishioners in completing this may be necessary in light of the limited availability of volunteer groups or otherwise contractors paid to complete it.

An unfortunate Incident occurred on the boardwalk due to damaged netting. All netting then removed and a few broken boards replaced. Warning signs erected near either end of the boardwalk footpath. Urgent action required on future of the boardwalk following consultation when the current situation allows for appropriate discussion amongst all.

## **5. Alderford Common**

No tasks undertaken due to pandemic.

Future summer tasks likely to include non-native species eradication (Himalayan Balsam) and bracken control, possible pond maintenance plus some maintenance of infrastructure where required. Any urgent requirements may need to be addressed by a contractor (if possible).

Fly tipping along the common and in the car park remain a problem. The PC has had to pay to have some removed – see note from Clerk and smaller items are regularly removed voluntarily.

**Steve Williams – July 2020**

**Swannington with Alderford and Little Witchingham Parish Council**